THE CHECK COLLECTOR

April June 1996 | The Journal of THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC. | Number 38

OKg 218

WANTED

PASSING WORTHLESS CHECKS

JAS. R. PERKINS

POLICE DETECTIVE BUREAU
RECEIVED
APR 27 1912
HALL OF JUSTICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Age, about 43 or 44 years.
Height, between 5 feet 4 and 5 inches.
Weight, about 150 pounds; stout build.
Smooth shaven. Hair, medium.
Red face; nose very red, with blue blossom on end
Gold teeth, quite noticeable. Neatly dressed.
Talks *very* Southern

Known around Houston, Texas, where at one time made headquarters as salesman Ex-Policeman Earl McFarland knows him well. May go to El Paso or Beaumont, Texas. Has been a great deal in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Claims to be traveling Whiskey Salesman for Standard Distilling Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Man with him while here by name of Al Caldwell, of Houston; tended bar there; may be working together. Have no warrant for Caldwell.

Passed bogus draft in Reno, Nevada, about April 5th, 1912.

March 29

Standard Distilling Co.
Cincinnati, Ohio
"Hanover Rye Whiskey"
Pay to Jas. R. Perkins
$100.00 One Hundred . . . Dollars
Elias Lowengart
Treasurer

Endorsed on back: Jas. R. Perkins

Arrest, hold, and wire me at my expense. I hold Felony Warrant.

C. P. FERREL,
Sheriff Washoe County,
Reno, Nevada.

Dated April 24th, 1912.

Editor: Robert D. Hohertz
Box 190332
St. Louis, MO 63119 - 6332
(314) 961-4399

Editor Emeritus: Robert A. Spence

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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 32 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We retype all material. Illustrations require an original or a good, clear, black and white copy at **80%** of the size of the original. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully and promptly. Finished check photos are always welcome. Any questions, ask the Editor!

To our advertisers:

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the July-September issue of *The Check Collector* is August 10.

The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads must be camera-ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Yes, the President's message, is normally in this spot. Martha's message can be found on page 24. It deserves your attention.

I'd like to report the status of the suggestion to establish a "trading post" for members in *The Check Collector*. To date, I have received three letters in favor of it, and one, while not directly opposed, definitely not enthusiastic. None of the letters were from dealers.

If we are to devote the space to a "trading post," we will need support from more than three members. For the time being, I will keep this project under advisement - meaning, I won't implement it, but I won't consider it a dead issue.

Several members have written to me about my article on the Lanman & Kemp checks, and I will report the additional information they have provided in a subsequent issue.

One further item of interest is the number of new members who have learned about the ASCC through the Internet. At least one did so through The Australian Chemical Network! I have thought of establishing a web page for us as I learn the technology, but this is a few months from reality, at the least.

It's difficult to believe that I am into my third year as your Editor. I feel very fortunate in having the flow of articles from you, the members, and I will feel comfortable keeping this post as long as you keep me provided with such good material to fill each issue.

Bob Hohertz

P.S. The cover is courtesy of Doug McDonald.

Advertising rates are as follows:

One quarter page	$25.00/issue
Business card size	$15.00/issue

$10 discount for four issues paid at once.

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Founded in 1969

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

A non-profit organization organized under Section 501-(c)-(3)

President: Martha M. Cox (1997)
14085 Mango Drive
Del Mar, CA 92014

Vice President: currently vacant

Secretary: Coleman Leifer (1997)
PO Box 577
Garrett Park, MD 20896
CAL493@aol.com

Treasurer: Dick Naven (1997)
6802 S.W. 33rd Pl.
Portland, OR 97219

Directors:
Martha M. Cox (1997)
Robert D. Hohertz (1996) FSA71@aol com
M.S. Kazanjian (1996)
Coleman Leifer (1997) CAL493@aol com
Edward N. Lipson (1997)
Douglas McDonald (1997) Gypsyfoot@aol.com
Dick Naven (1997)
Lee E. Poleske (1996)
Robert A. Spence (1997)

Departments:

Check Collector:	Robert D. Hohertz	*Membership:*	Roland P. Burnham
Check Pool:	Harry R. Johnson, Sr.	*Membership Directory:*	Coleman A. Leifer
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The Elusive O Type: O(h) My Goodness, Look What Just Turned Up

By Bill Castenholz, VOTP

Friday evening there was a message on my machine: Ron Lesher was asking if I had heard of the discovery of an O type from Iowa. Ron said he wasn't available until Sunday so I phoned Coleman Leifer. Yes, Coleman knew about the find. In fact, he had one in his possession. Eric Jackson had sent it to him. As it turned out, earlier in the week Coleman had been asked if he wanted one by another dealer who said he (the dealer) was to receive three of them shortly.

The next day, I received one of the new O types in the mail (**Figure 1**, below). It isn't pristine but it is nice and it is used, something of a real plus when considering that, up to now, most of the approximately 17 known examples of the O's are unused. In fact, prior to the discovery of the new piece, I was aware of only three used O's.

I talked to Ron on Sunday. He thought there were six of the new checks found. But by Tuesday morning, when we talked again, the opinion was that Eric Jackson had purchased six from one party but had been offered ten more from a different source This, supposedly, was the total number found.

Later in the day, Tuesday, I received a phone call from another dealer. He had just been offered three new O type checks from Iowa! We discussed the situation and he determined to find out what was going on. He phoned the next day to say that his source positively had the whole story. Here it is:

A book dealer in Illinois had purchased some papers, etc. from an estate. Included were 135 checks, including 21 of Type O. Two had been sold from his store, three more were being offered to my dealer friend and Eric Jackson had accounted for the other 16. Now we knew the facts. Or so we thought.

I phoned Eric to make sure he knew that there were more than 16 pieces in the find. To my surprise, Eric told me that another 35 were now in the mail to him, making a total of 56!

About a week later Eric phoned me back to say that he felt he finally had the accurate story of these pieces. The new O types indeed originated with a book dealer in Illinois. But it was from the dealer's own family that they came. And the total, he was assured, was 56. The O suddenly has come into the reach of any serious (or semi-serious) collector!

So now what?
Let's review a bit of "history."

The very first time I saw an O type imprint was at the Turner Sale. That was, as you may remember, in Boston in July of 1980. Hot and humid on the outside, but nothing compared to the heat on the auction floor. Stanley Richmond hosted the "Great War" of revenue stamped paper collecting.

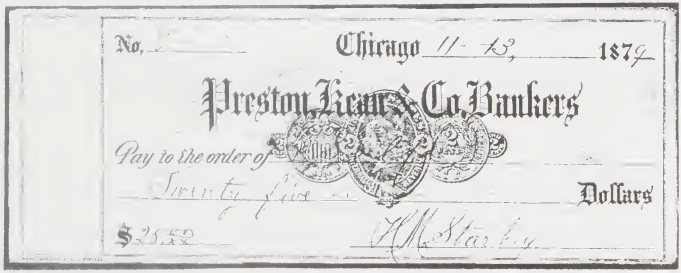
There were two Type O's in the sale. One was lotted with a select group of unused checks representing all of the major types from A to O, even including an unused I2. The other O type was lotted separately. When it came up for sale, a gentleman who I had seen sitting beside me, but who had left the room, stuck his head in the door and bid the piece to $1,100 (plus 10%). At that time the catalog value of an O type was $150! By a sheer coincidence, a day later I was in a stamp and coin shop and I ran into this fellow. He was the proprietor. I asked him why he was so hot on the O type. This is what he told me If you look closely you will see that the Type O is composed of a design incorporating a head of Liberty between the obverse and the reverse of a two-cent piece. Now, note the date on the coin It is 1874 The numismatists among us know that the U.S. Mint last struck two-cent coins for circulation in 1872, although a few proofs were struck in 1873, before the denomination disappeared permanently. His interest was in the likeness of a two-cent coin dated a year later than any piece struck by the mint!

Incidentally, this is the date of origin of this imprint. As we know, Type O was only produced (that is, delivered) during September and October, 1874. I believe the artist who developed Type O was either unaware of the cessation of the two-cent piece and simply used the current date for his coin design or used 1874 knowing he was not "reproducing a real coin."

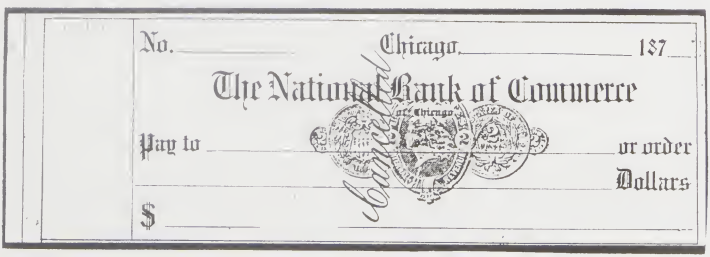
Let me describe the Turner pieces. Both were identical Preston, Kean & Co. checks printed on a medium blue

paper (**Figure 2** on the previous page). The paper makes the orange of the imprint appear to be darker than it would on white paper. Both checks were unused. The printer of the checks is the now universally known Rand, McNally & Co. There are perhaps seven to ten of the unused Preston, Kean checks. Incidentally, one of these pieces was made very identifiable by J.N.T. Levick. Levick was a very active collector of revenues in the Nineteenth Century. He applied his handstamp to many revenue stamps and pieces of revenue stamped paper. This check with Levick's handstamp on the front has changed hands three times since it appeared as lot 860 in the J.L. McGuire sale of October 21, 1982.

To my knowledge only one used example of the Preston, Kean and Co. check has ever appeared (**Figure 3**, below). Interestingly, it poses a problem. All of the known unused pieces have a blank dateline. The dateline on the used piece includes "Chicago." Now, since all deliveries of the O type were made in September and October, 1874, it seems illogical to conclude that a second printing was required due to the first printing being all used up. More likely, the printer was required to produce some checks with "Chicago" on the dateline, some without it. To my knowledge all checks from this firm (including Type C1, D1, E4 and J4 for Lunt, Preston & Kean and Types D1, F1, numerous printings of G1, L10 and O2 for Preston, Kean & Co. Bankers) had "Chicago" on the dateline. Only the unused O2's have a blank dateline.

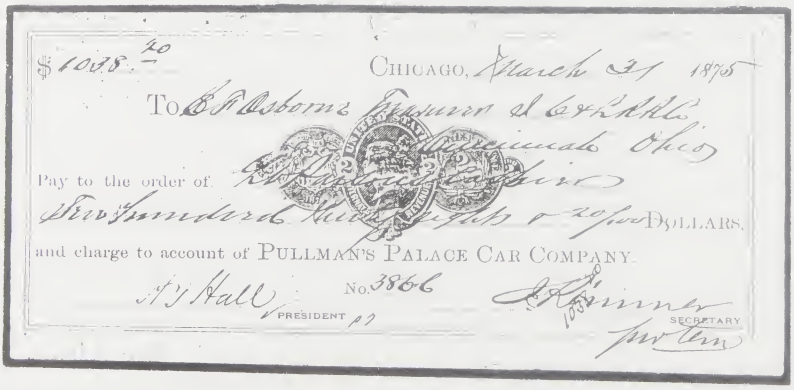


A new user for the O type changed hands by private treaty in 1980. The unused check is from the National Bank of Commerce in Chicago (**Figure 4**, below). The paper is white; the imprint, though orange, is very close to yellow. Written in pen vertically upward across the center of the check is the word "Cancelled." The check had been pasted down at one time, and it is possible that it came from a sample book. It appears to be unique.



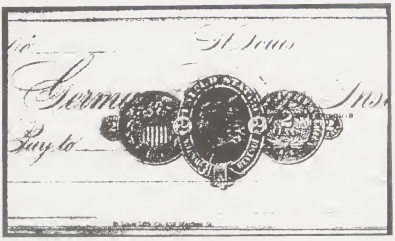
In the McGuire sale of March 25,1983, another O type was offered. It was the first time I had seen one of these checks from the Manufacturers Bank of Milwaukee. It has a medium orange imprint on white paper, and was printed by the Milwaukee Lithograph and Engraving Co. (**Figure 5**, below). It appears that the Morton Dean Joyce Collection contained at least two more of these pieces. All are unused.

Sometime during the summer of 1990 the near-ultimate O type was discovered. It came, along with an unused X type RR ticket, from the San Francisco area and was purchased by Jim Dickerson who made its presence known. The piece is a Chicago draft from the Pullman Palace Car Co. used in March of 1875 (**Figure 6**, below). Currently there is only one known.



Ed Lipson's collection contains an O from the Union Trust Co. in Chicago. The piece is used, dated in December, 1875, and was printed by the Union Lith. Co. I do not know of another example.

Finally, a cut square of an O type from Saint Louis was in the Amon Carter Collection (**Figure 7** on following page). After Carter's death the piece changed hands in 1983, going into a collection in Texas, then passing through an Ivy, Shreve, Mader sale about two years ago and coming to rest in a well-known auction house where it has been offered on three occasions over the past 18 months.



The Einstein, Kingsley, De Kay "Survey" reported a total of ten Type O documents and one cut square. We know that the Turner collection was not included in the Survey but Carter's (at least a part of it) and Joyce's collections were. Assuming that Turner's two Type O's, the used Preston, Kean example, the Pullman piece and National Bank of Commerce check were not in the survey, we can account for at least 15 entires and one cut square prior to the discovery of the Iowa find. I also suspect that the Milwaukee piece from McGuire's 1983 sale was not in the survey, so perhaps 17 examples of the O were known. And that encompasses no less than six users!

Now there appears to be seven users and a total of close to 75 extant Type O's. And the super-rare used pieces are now part of a group representing over 80% of the total.

Remember the title to the article in *The American Revenuer* describing last November's Joe Antizzo Sale? It was "Yes, Virginia, now is the time to buy revenue stamped paper!

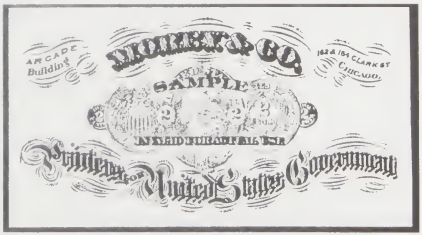


Figure 8. The only known sample of Type O.

References

Czech, Ben (Ronald Lesher), Who Printed the Type O Revenue Stamped Paper? *The American Revenuer*, June, 1990, pp. 126-127.

Czech, Ben, A Used Type O Check. *The American Revenuer*, June, 1991, pp. 117-118.

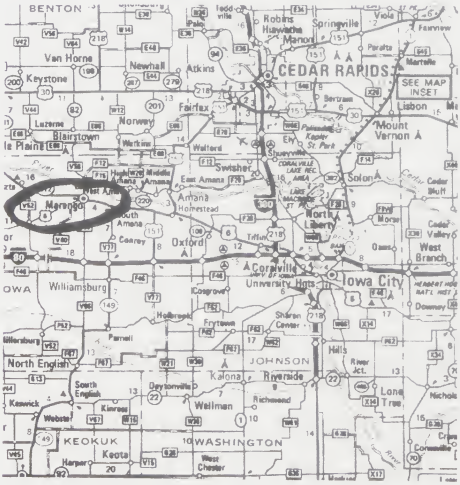
Einstein, J., T.C. Kingsley and W.R. DeKay. *A Handbook of United States Revenue Stamped Paper*. The American Revenue Association, 1979.

Lesher, Ronald. Personal correspondence. I wish to thank Ron for his helpful suggestions and for supplying some of these facts, plus illustrations of the used Preston, Kean check and the only known sample of Type O.

○○○○○○

William J. Johnson provided a short article on the Type O find as well. His comments included the population of Marengo, Iowa, in the 1991 Rand McNally Road Atlas: 2,308.

The town is located just west of the Amana Colonies, a short distance above Interstate 80, and is fairly close to both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. An unlikely setting for use of the rarest major type of revenue stamped paper?



The Clock on the Bank

by Richard L. Biemer

Once upon a time we could look up or down our Main Street and see the large clock on the bank. Today, most of our local banks and just about all of their clocks have disappeared,

As a member of the community, the bank was of service, and it is no doubt that more people availed themselves of the time of day than anything else the business had to offer.

If there are outside timepieces on banks now, they may also give the time and temperature. All too often these units mess up so badly that they are discontinued or dismantled.

What happened to the old-fashioned bank clock? Frequent changes of bank names, building remodeling and the difficulty involved in getting the clocks serviced are among the reasons for their demise. Besides, the latest technology in telling time goes with the new, efficient image of our modern bank buildings.

Three examples of clocks as a prominent features on bank checks are illustrated. Probably, many checks with this theme are available from banks across the country. These clocks are not used primarily as a vignette, but are included as part of a bank building.

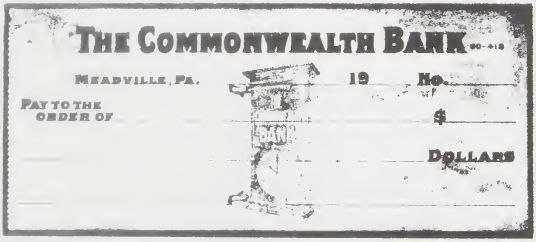


Figure 1. The Commonwealth Bank of Meadville, PA proudly bears its clock. From the author's collection.

The clock as a symbol of a bank's service to the community, or to serve as a landmark, makes an interesting vignette for the subject of a topical check collection.

Figure 2. Small type on the wall beside the clock reads, "The Bank with the Clock." In this instance, the vignette serves to identify a landmark in the town of Rich Hill, MO. From the collection of the author.

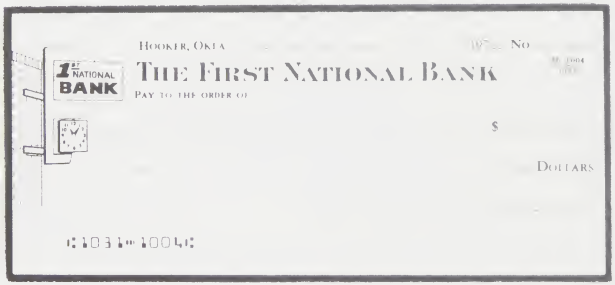


Figure 3. A more modern-looking clock appears on this check from Hooker, OK. The time shown on it is something like seven after eleven, unlike the virtually identical times shown on the preceding examples, ten minutes to twelve. The significance of either of these times to banking isn't obvious. From the collection of Herman Boraker.

The Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company

by Coleman Leifer

Collectors of California fiscal paper are familiar with checks from the northern part of the Mother Lode area Examples from Dutch Flat, Goodyear's, North Bloomfield and Port Wine, in particular, are fairly common. Fiscal paper from The Tioga Mining District, as represented by the checks in the accompanying illustrations, is much scarcer.

The Tioga Mining District is located in the vicinity of Tioga Pass in eastern Tuolumne and western Mono Counties. The Tioga Pass road (California SR 120) which runs through the area is the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park and one of the most scenic in the state. Evidence of gold was discovered in the area in the 1860's, but the Tioga Mining District area boomed from 1880-1884 when the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company built the Great Sierra tunnel.

The four checks illustrated are a snapshot of the history of mining and postal service in the area.

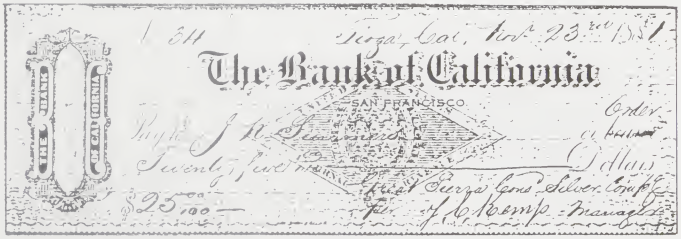


Figure 1 is a generic check on the Bank of California issued in Tioga in November 1881. The Tioga post office, in Mono County, was established in May 1880 and discontinued in June 1881.

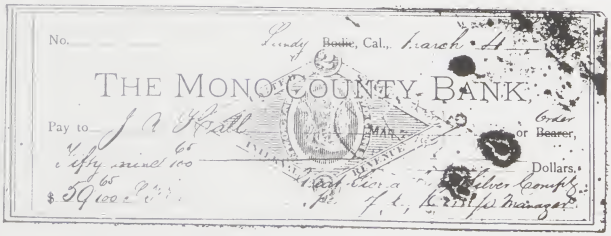


Figure 2 illustrates a check on the Mono County Bank dated March 4, 1882 with the location altered from Bodie to Lundy. Lundy was the only post office operating in the area at the time, a post office in Dana, in Tuolumne County, having closed in February of that year. Lundy was 17 miles north of Tioga.

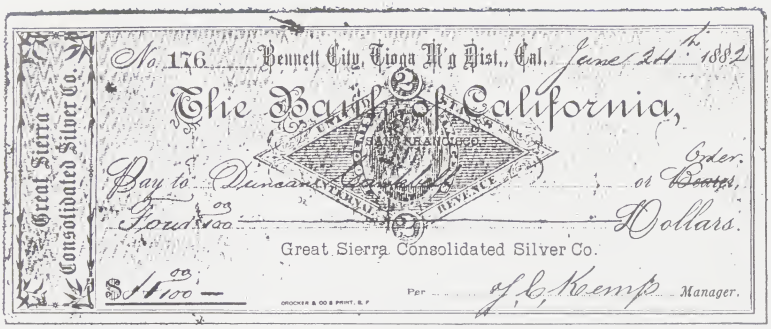

Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Co.
No. 176 Bennett City, Tioga M'g Dist., Cal. June 24th 1882
The Bank of California,
SAN FRANCISCO
Pay to Duncan Cambell or Bearer,
Four 50/100 Dollars.
Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Co.
$4 50/100 —
Per W. L. Kemp Manager.

Figure 3 shows "Bennett City" on the dateline and is dated June 24, 1882. A Bennettville post office, in Mono County, was established on March 3, 1882 in the same area as Tioga. There was no "Bennett City" post office.

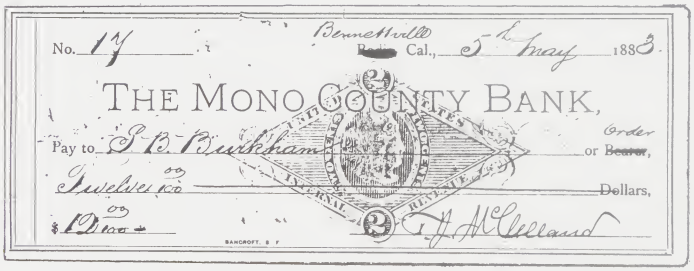

No. 17 Bennettville Cal., 5th May 1883
THE MONO COUNTY BANK,
Pay to S. B. Burkham Order or Bearer,
Twelve 00/100 Dollars,
$12 00/100
T. J. McClelland

Figure 4 is a check on the Mono County Bank dated May 5, 1883 with the location altered to Bennettville. Bennettville and Bennett City were named for Thomas Bennett, the president of the Great Sierra mine.

While $300,000 was expended in constructing the mine the project was not successful and The Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company failed in 1884. The Bennettville post office was closed on November 19 of that year.

The information regarding the Tioga Mining District was obtained from *Gold Districts of California*, published by the California Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento, CA 95814 and is available from them at $10. Request Bulletin 193. In addition to a wealth of historical data concerning California mining it contains a large map showing the location of the various gold districts.

Information regarding the post offices in the area was obtained from *The History of California Post Offices* by H.E. Salley and is available from dealers in postal history.

Thanks to Bill Castenholz who contributed to this article.

The Heyday of American Phototype Part One

by Ed Lipson

In 1865, when Civil War revenue stamped paper came into existence, the American Phototype Company of New York was the only authorized printer of revenue stamps on document. The advantage of this monopoly was not lost on the company management. The main thrust of this series of articles will be to show how American Phototype attempted to dominate and control the check printing business, as evidenced by specimens and documents in the author's possession.

American Phototype's advantage arose from their ability to print the revenue stamp and the check face at the same time, with a government allowance subsidizing the operation. A discount, not available to competitors who would need to pay for the stamp printing from American Phototype and then incur their own printing cost for the check face, would be passed on to the purchaser. It is readily understandable that this situation adversely affected the financial well-being of others in the check and document printing field.

United States Civil War Revenue Stamp Taxes, by Michael Mahler, contains a letter of reply from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue which leads one to believe that a 'committee,' which included Mr. B. Maverick and Mr John Kennard, made a complaint in December of 1865 regarding the unfair advantage enjoyed by American Phototype In this letter the Commissioner speaks of equal treatment for all printers, indicates that the contract with American Phototype has been rescinded, and says that Joseph Carpenter will henceforth be imprinting revenue stamps on checks and other documents. This did not happen. Apparently both American Phototype and Joseph Carpenter imprinted stamps for some time after that. However, indications exist that American Phototype ceased printing the faces of the documents.

A letter from the New York Lithographing, Engraving and Printing Company (**Figure 1**) is interesting in this regard.

"New York, Dec 2 1868
Messrs. J. C. Clark & Sons
Gent

In reply to yours of yesterday, we would say that the American Phototype Co. (No. 87 Cedar St. & Bway) have the sole right to stamp checks, documents, etc., with the U. S. revenue stamps and if you should send your papers thru with directions your business will be attended to; we believe they allow a disct of 2 1/2% from the par value of the stamps to stationers, on checks that we print we have the stamp printed if requested.

Yours Truly
Edw. W. Weed
Treas."

The letterhead shows the officers of New York Lithographing to be Wm. C. Prime, President; Edw. H. Weed, Treas. & Sec.; and Julius Bien, Superintendent. The possible connection between Julius Bien and American Phototype was discussed by Ron Lesher in The American Revenuer, April 1992. This article cites a copy of a note that Bien sent to former American Phototype clients in April of 1866 stating that American Phototype has discontinued the making and furnishing of checkbooks and receipts.

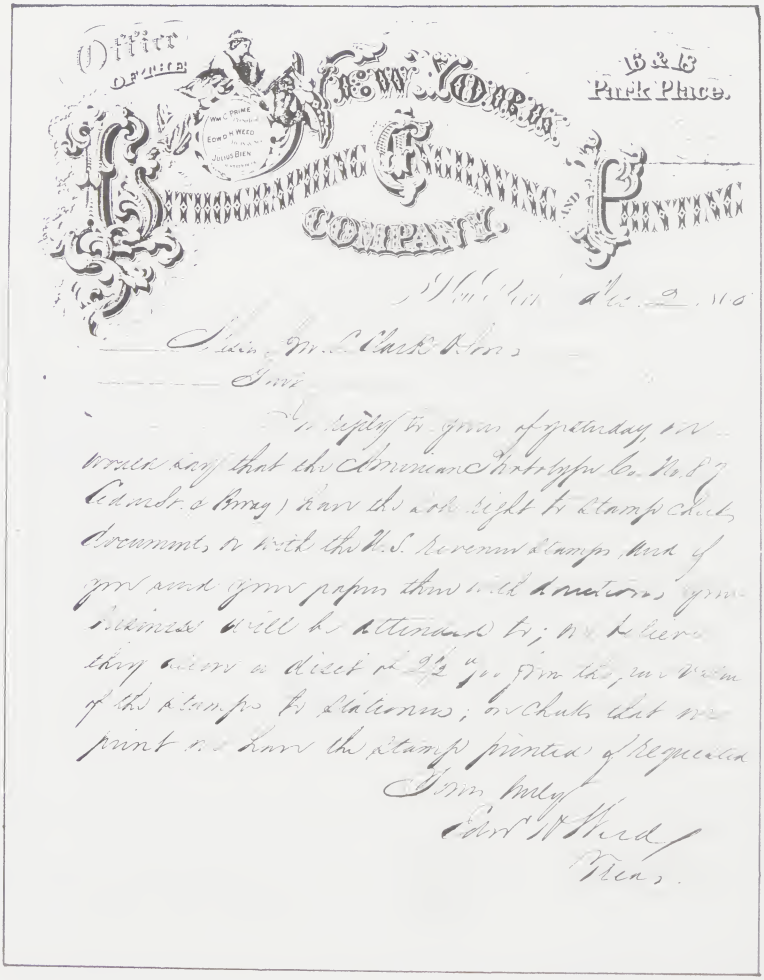

Office
OF THE
NEW YORK
ENGRAVING
COMPANY.
PRINTING
13 & 15
Park Place.
COMPANY.

Figure 1.

In that regard, what is the basis of the 2 1/2% discount on imprinting stamps mentioned in Weed's letter? The statement that American Phototype has the sole right to imprint stamps on documents is certainly misinformation. Joseph Carpenter, in Philadelphia, was also imprinting checks and other documents at this time. However, the letter is evidence that American Phototype was in fact still imprinting stamps as late as 1868.

The dominance of American Phototype in the first few months of revenue stamp imprinting can be demonstrated by the dominance of their specimen checks and receipts. The remainder the first article in this series will concentrate on receipts with Type A imprinted revenues.

The Sterling Catalogue describes Type A as follows:

" 'A' Variety 1. American Phototype Co., New York. 2 ct. Black rectangular stamp. Large 2 in center; at left, Internal; at right, Revenue; at top, Two, at base, Cents; in upper corner, U.S.; in lower corner (2). Fancy scroll work around frame. Size, 22 x 25. Used on receipts &c. Colors - black, blue, carmine, lemon, orange, deep orange, pearl, purple on white and blue paper."

This writer has never seen some of the colors and papers listed by Sterling. Also, in regard to the phrase "Used on receipts &c," examples of the Type A imprint on documents for use other than as a receipt are unreported at this time

The reason why Type A is only found on receipts is unknown. Examples of such receipts that have survived vary greatly in size, style text and format. Some are full letter size, 8 1/2 x 11"; others are just a hair larger than a playing card. Checks and drafts were more nearly uniform in size, but that would not preclude use of a Type A imprint on them. The larger Type B and Type C imprints are known on full letter size documents, and Type B, a vertical design, is found printed horizontally on small Niagara Insurance company receipts. If there was no problem finding space for Type B and C on checks, why not the smaller Type A? The writer would appreciate hearing from anyone who can explain the nonexistence of Type A on a check!

Shown below are some specimen receipts and the sample numbers assigned to them by American Phototype. The term 'Handbook' refers to *A Handbook for United States Revenue Stamped Paper* by Joseph S. Einstein, Thomas C. Kingsley and W. Richard DeKay, Copyright 1979 by the American Revenue Association.

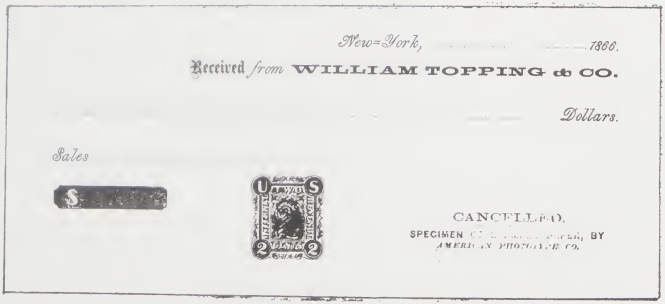


Figure 2. Specimen #61(?) Receipt for money. Type A1a. Black. RN center left. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1 applied to both sides. User - William Topping & Co., New York.

Figure 2 is a monotype (black) specimen of the common Topping two-sided receipt. These were bound in a book and kept by Topping. This specimen, as well as others shown, establish the fact that the known specimens came from printing runs where the RN's were prepared and intended for actual use.

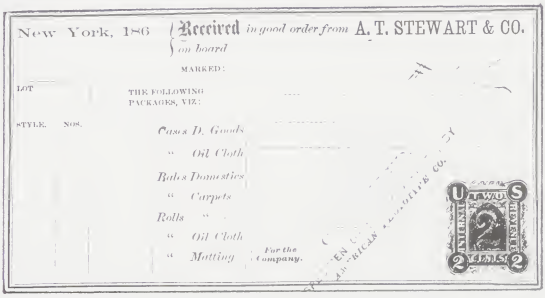


Figure 3. Specimen #82 Receipt for goods "on board". Type A1. Black. RN extreme lower right. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1. User - A. T. Stewart & Co., New York.

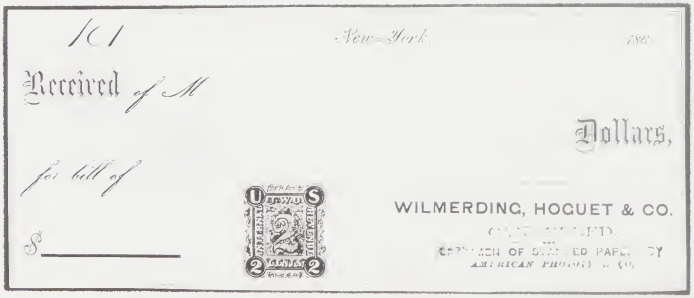


Figure 4. Specimen #101 Receipt for money. Type A1. Black. RN bottom left center Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1. User - Wilmerding, Hoguet & Co., New York.

All of the type A specimens appear to have been canceled with a handstamp of American Phototype Company. The back of the receipt in **Figure 3** is stained by the adhesive that held it to a page in a Sample Book.

Figure 5. Specimen #117 Receipt for money. Type A1. Black. RN bottom left center. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1 User - Hunt, Tillinghast & Co., New York.

Figure 5 is illustrated in the Handbook as Figure 50 on page 70. The security printer identified at the bottom is American Phototype Company

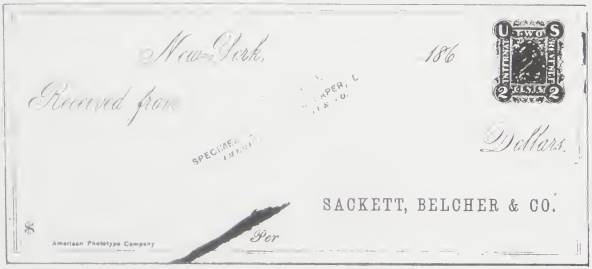


Figure 6. Specimen #169 Receipt for money. Type A1. Black. RN top upper right. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1. User - Sackett, Belcher & Co., New York.

Figure 6 also indicates American Phototype Company as the security printer. Copies of this receipt are known used.

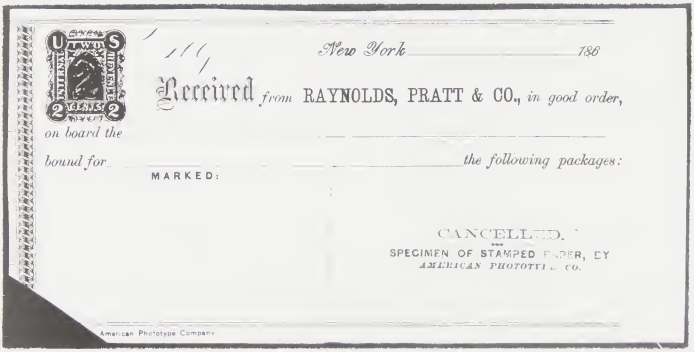


Figure 7. Specimen #249 Receipt for goods. Type A1. Black. RN top upper left. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1. User - Raynolds, Pratt & Co., New York.

The lower left hand corner of the specimen in **Figure 7** was cut, probably as an indication that the document was invalid for actual use and the two cent tax did not have to be collected. The word 'sample' which appears as part of the RN imprint beginning with Type B made such measures unnecessary.

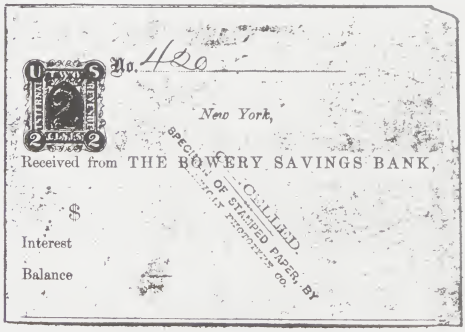
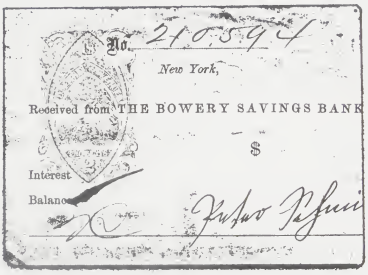


Figure 8. Specimen 420 Receipt for withdrawal of money. Type A1. Black. RN top upper left. Three line handstamp Handbook Type 1. User - Bowery Savings Bank, New York.

Figure 8 shows a special receipt for use by an account holder to make a withdrawal without writing a check. (See 'An Answer to What Is It?' by Michael J. Morrissey in *The Check Collector*, Number 37, pages 8-9.) A used receipt, identical except bearing RN Type B, is shown in **Figure 9** on the next page.



This series will continue in the next issue of The Check Collector.

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589th Sale of June 4-6, 1991, *The Morton Dean Joyce Collection of United States Revenue Stamps*. Auction Catalog of Daniel F. Kelleher Co., Inc, 1991.

E.B. Sterling. Sterling's Standard Descriptive and Price Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the United States. 1888.

Czech, Ben (Ronald Lesher), Printing the Check Face and Imprinting the Stamps. *The American Revenuer*, July-August 1990, pp. 148-149.

Czech, Ben (Ronald Lesher), The American Phototype Company, Samuel Booth, and Julius Bien. The *American Revenuer*, April 1992, pp. 80-82.

The January-March, 1996 issue of The Check Collector contained an index to issues 1-36. Back issues can be obtained from the Secretary at PO Box, 577, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Cost is $2.50 per copy for one issue, $2.00 for additional issues. In a few cases the back issues will be photocopies. Articles listed as Conversation Piece (cp) and Check Collector's Clearing House (CCCH) are generally one or two pages in length. Photocopies of these are 50 cents each (postpaid).

A photocopy of the "Guide to Check Collecting" series of articles by Bob Spence, which appeared in issues 19-26, is available from the Secretary at $4.00.

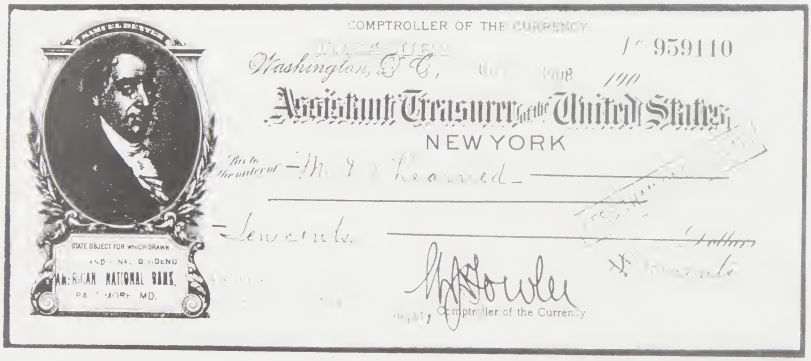
Postcard to the Editor

In regards to the article on p. 24 of the January-March, 1996 issue, 'Whatever Happened to Richmond Switch?,' the following can be said:
Richmond Switch - post office in operation January 25, 1870 to June 14, 1889, when the name changed to Wood River Junction, which is still active, not a ghost. Source - *The Post Offices of Rhode Island* by John Gallagher.

PS. S.N. Richmond was probably founder and first postmaster.

Doug DeRoest

A Conversation Piece



Does anyone know why the U.S. Treasury would be paying the tenth and final dividend on (for?) the American National Bank of Baltimore? The lordly sum of ten cents, at that!

Notice of ASCC Regional Meeting

The ASCC has been invited to hold a regional meeting as part of the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association convention August 23-25 in Dalton, Georgia. As of this time, Judith Murphy will be chairing the meeting, and it will be held at the brand new convention center in Dalton on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

The convention will feature a three hour riverboat cruise and dinner on the Tennessee River aboard the Southern Belle on Friday night. Tickets are $35 per person and entitle the holder to a prime rib buffet. An exhibit of Georgia currency, Colonial Period through 1865, from the Smithsonian National Numismatic Collection will be present at the show. A 180 table bourse is sold out.

As Judith writes, "Coleman (Leifer) and I had been talking about this and decided it might be a good way to recruit new members as well as help regular members get together. We used to have great old times years ago at our 'roundtables'. They were essentially bring-and-brag get-togethers, and after everyone had shown off their proudest new finds, we oftentimes had swap sessions."

If you are anywhere in the vicinity, or can get there, this will be a good way to renew old friendships, make new ones, and add to your collection.

Issue 38 of The Counterfoil

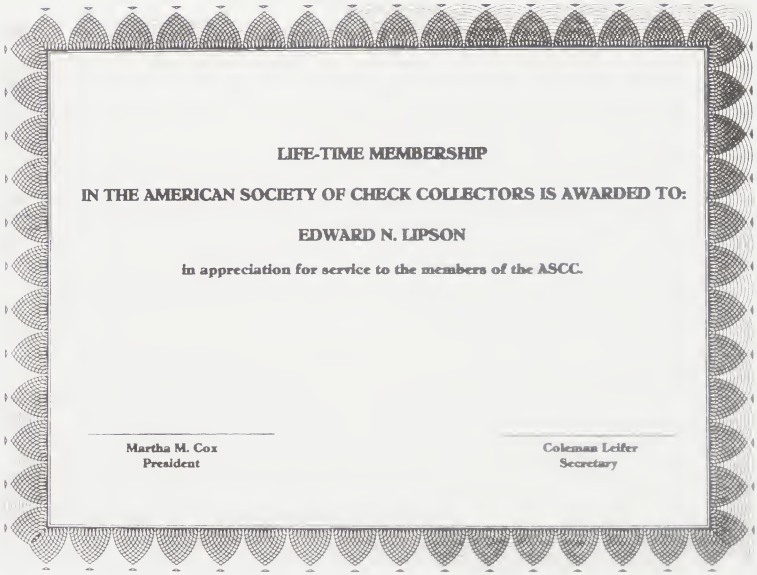
The May, 1996 Issue of The Counterfoil, the quarterly journal of the British Cheque Collectors Society, is Issue 38 - the same volume number as the issue of The Check Collector you now have in your hands. It contains the usual fascinating information concerning banks founded, in the case of the Ashford Bank of Kent, in 1791, and in the instance of C Hoare and Company, the last surviving family-owned private bank in the country, in 1692. On The American Page, Bob and Helen Spence have contributed an article on United States Territorial Cheques (why not, in this instance, "checks"?), complete with illustrated examples.

The Society arranges visits to various banks, particularly those which maintain historical archives. Eight members, as they put it, "descended on the Archives (of Barclay's Bank) from far and wide..." and were given tea and biscuits before their guided tour Barclay's is a relatively recent bank for the UK, only celebrating its centenary this year, but it was a merger of twenty private banks, some going back into the seventeenth century. The name Barclay first appeared in 1736 when James Barclay married the daughter of a goldsmith who was one of the founding partners of a London financial institution. The subsequent history traced in the article is quite interesting, and a follow-up discusses collecting the cheques of the Barclay group - the original twenty banks, plus, perhaps, their constituents

The Counterfoil is available to members of the Society. Membership is ú8 annually. Contact Michael Veissid, Esq, Collectors Gallery, 6 & 7 Castle Gates, SHREWSBURY, Shropshire, SY1 2AE.

There will be no What's Happening Out West column this issue. Martha Cox reports that she did not receive any information concerning shows far enough in advance to meet the printing schedule. As the fall season gets underway we hope this feature will resume - perhaps columns with information about shows in other areas of the country as well...

Life-Time membership Awarded to Ed Lipson



LIFE-TIME MEMBERSHIP

IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS IS AWARDED TO:

EDWARD N. LIPSON

in appreciation for service to the members of the ASCC.

Martha M. Cox
President

Coleman Leifer
Secretary

The Board of the ASCC has voted to award Edward N. Lipson a Life Membership in recognition of his service as President of the ASCC and for his many contributions to the field of revenue stamped paper. All members of the ASCC wish Ed continued success in tracking down unusual examples of RN's.

Ed, together with Bob and Helen Spence are the first recipients of ASCC Life Membership certificates.

Arri Jacob reports that the California National Currency Collectors were establishing a newsletter in the first quarter of the year, and that they would include a membership application for the ASCC in the first issue.

I believe it was Bob Spence who sent this...

Rags make paper,
Paper makes money,
Money makes banks,
Banks make loans,
Loans make beggars,
Beggars make rags.

Anon. 17th Century

President's Page

Martha Cox

The success of this organization has rested on the shoulders of a few remarkable members, who have worked tirelessly to promote the interests of check collecting to the masses. When I joined ASCC, Bob Spence, ably assisted by his wife Helen, must have worked round the clock to serve as president and editor. I am in awe of what he (they) accomplished. Kudos and many thanks from all of us.

Likewise, when Ed Lipson took over, the organization was in good hands under his sage eye and sharp wit. His contributions, both in writing for our publication and others, and promoting the organization has earned him our gratitude and respect. He surely is a deserving candidate, as well as Bob and Helen Spence, for an honorary lifetime membership. Thank you, Ed. Enjoy your much deserved relief from the toils in the trenches.

As I assume the presidency, a review of the current state of the ASCC would seem to be in order. I, first of all, feel very thankful to have the dedicated officers and board of directors that now serve this organization. I will contact each of you directly in the coming weeks.

You may be wondering about a vicepresident. I have not rushed to select a candidate just to fill a spot. I believe we are at a very critical juncture in our organization. I have long held a "vision" for this organization of strong regional segments of ASCC. Our current officers reside on the middle of the Eastern seaboard, the Northwest and the Southwest, and our editor is right in the middle. It couldn't be better from my point of view.

I started the "What's Happening Out West" column because it seemed several years ago that Western collectors had limited representation in our publication. And yet I knew population-wise, we had a lot of collectors here. I would love it if we ended up with a "What's Happening in the Northeast - Southeast - Midwest" from several regional contributors
Anyone interested? Just let our terrific editor, Bob Hohertz, or myself know of your interest, and we'll offer you our moral support. You'll have smiles and many thanks from those in your "region".

Forgive the length of this first message. There is more to this "vision", but it will have to be conveyed in later issues.

For now, let me just say that I will do my best to follow in the large footsteps that preceded me. Thank you for your continued support of the organization during this transition period. I will surely do all I can to ensure its continued success.

Sincerely,

Secretary's Report
Coleman Leifer

This report includes changes received through June 4, 1996.

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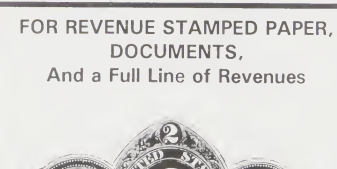

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